

In a quintessential American story, 15-year-old Joseph Dager came to America from Lebanon in 1903 without knowing a word of English. Eleven years later he started his ice cream business in the basement of a local confectionary. His hand-cranked ice cream batches set his family and Central Ohio on a path that would make Velvet Ice Cream and Central Ohio famous.

Although they no longer hand-crank ice cream in a basement, the company strives to maintain its connection to those by-gone years. In homage to Velvet's adherence to old time values and tradition, Velvet is now housed in a refurbished grist mill from the 1800s. The "Ye Olde Mill" now manufactures ice cream, plays host to thousands of visitors and marks the center of activity during each annual Utica Sertoma Ice Cream Festival.

Thousands stream into Utica each year for the festival. Having attended many myself, I know the joy locals and outsiders alike find in a bowl of good, old-fashioned ice cream. In a way, the festival commemorates the simple beginnings of a business started by an immigrant named Joseph Dager. Like so many other enterprises, Velvet Ice Cream started humbly but grew into a Central Ohio institution. America is richer for Velvet's founder's contributions to our country and Central Ohioans are grateful he chose to settle here.

As the fourth generation of the Dager family carries Joseph Dager's legacy into its 2nd century, Central Ohio proudly celebrates one man's vision, hard work and sweet legacy.

HONORING DANIEL PUGH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Daniel Pugh. Danny is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 177, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Danny has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Danny has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Danny has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Danny cleaned and cleared a city lot near the town square in Bowling Green, Missouri, that had been abandoned for a decade.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Daniel Pugh for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL MICHAEL FERRITER

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lieutenant General Mi-

chael Ferriter, Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management and Commanding General, Installation Management Command, for his distinguished service to the United States of America. Lieutenant General Ferriter will be retiring from the United States Army after nearly 35 years of service. He will be honored at a retirement ceremony on Friday, May 2, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at McGinnis-Wickham Hall at Fort Benning, Georgia.

LTG Ferriter graduated from The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina in May 1979, and was commissioned in the Infantry as a Second Lieutenant. After the Infantry Officer Basic Course, his first troop assignment was Platoon Leader, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry, Fort Riley, Kansas. From there, he successfully completed numerous command and staff assignments at Fort Wainwright, Alaska; Fort Lewis, Washington; Fort Benning, Georgia; and Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

LTG Ferriter's first Joint Staff assignment was as Deputy Director for Operations and Plans before he became Executive Assistant to the Commander of the United States Joint Forces Command. In June 2004, he was called to duty as Assistant Division Commander of Operations of the 82d Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He completed a combat tour in Operation Restore Hope in Somalia with the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment; two tours in Iraq as Deputy Commanding General (Operations), Multi-National Corps, Iraq; and one tour as Deputy Commanding General (Advising and Training), United States Forces—Iraq.

The Second Congressional District of Georgia gained a respected and compassionate leader when LTG Ferriter was appointed Commanding General of the United States Army Infantry Center and the Maneuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning. He became a close friend and confidant as he served in my district and when he was appointed Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management and Commanding General, Installation Management Command, he demonstrated tremendous support for the Congressional Military Family Caucus, which I co-chair with Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA). LTG Ferriter and Mrs. Ferriter graciously participated in the CMFC's annual Military Family Summit held at Fort Benning in 2012, demonstrating strong support for our nation's military families.

LTG Ferriter's service to his country is but a small testament of the high caliber of character that he embodies. As the head of a family heavily involved in the military, he recognizes the challenges that face service members, veterans and military families across the nation. Throughout his tenure, he has worked tirelessly to find and implement solutions to these challenges.

LTG Ferriter has certainly excelled in all areas of life, but none of this would be possible without the love and support of his wife, Margie Ferriter. LTG Ferriter's motivation also comes from being a role model to his four children Dr. Meghan Ferriter, MAJ Dan Ferriter, CPT Paddy Ferriter, and former CPT Mary Whitney Whittaker. Mary Whitney and her husband, Garret, are the proud parents of Parker, LTG Ferriter's and Margie's first grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife, Vivian, the nearly 700,000 people in Georgia's 2nd Congressional District, and all Americans, in extending our sin-

cerest appreciation and best wishes to Lieutenant General Michael Ferriter, a "Soldier's Soldier," and Mrs. Ferriter, upon the occasion of his retirement from a stellar career of 35 years in the United States Army.

RECOMMENDATION TO REJECT NORWEGIAN AIR INTERNATIONAL'S APPLICATION FOR A FOREIGN AIR OPERATORS CERTIFICATE

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of my colleagues concerned about our nation's aviation industry and the delicate balance in our international relations to the pending decision by U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx regarding the application of Norwegian Air International for a Foreign Air Operators Certificate.

This important issue was addressed with utmost clarity recently by my friend, former U.S. Congressman Jim Oberstar in the following letter to Secretary Foxx. Jim Oberstar served in the U.S. House from 1975 to 2011 and was for many years Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. He is known as the nation's leading expert on Domestic and International Transportation issues. Former Congressman Oberstar urges Secretary Foxx to reject the Norwegian Air International Application.

APRIL 28, 2014.

Hon. ANTHONY FOXX,
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation,
New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: I have watched with great interest the public debate over the application of Norwegian Air International (NAI) for a foreign air operator's certificate from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). As a former chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, it is my strongly held view that the approval of NAI's application would run contrary to the U.S.-EU Air Transport Agreement and the labor article embodied in the agreement, and contrary to the best interests of U. S. commercial aviation. I respectfully urge you to reject NAI's application.

During my 36 years of service in the U.S. House of Representatives on the committee of jurisdiction over international aviation trade issues, I witnessed dramatic changes in the U.S. and global airline industries. Beginning with deregulation in 1978 and continuing through the modern era of mergers, code sharing, anti-trust-immunized alliances, and expansive Open Skies agreements, much of the airline industry today is globally interconnected; U.S. airlines and their employees are directly impacted by the actions of foreign competitors more than ever before. During my tenure of watchfulness over the U.S. aviation industry, I sought to ensure that liberalization was pursued in bilateral agreements which assured a balance of benefits with our international trade partners, protecting the integrity, safety, and competitiveness of the U.S. aviation system.

In the early 1990s, the U.S. government began negotiating bilateral Air Transport, or Open Skies agreements that were intended to open aviation markets, promote competition and tourism, create jobs and increase consumer choice for international travel. These Open Skies agreements are qualitatively different from other trade agreements which deal with services in that they